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INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Influenza Epidemic: The influenza epidemic of February - March 1952 worried the government considerably. The authorities seem to have lost their heads over it, although the figures did not reach such proportions as to enable the epidemic to be described as a "plague". As an example of "scare" measures, it was ruled that only life and death cases were to be admitted to hospitals or to be operated on. 25X1
2. The reason for the official panic was said to be that this was rather a severe type of influenza, with temperatures of 102-3° F., and very easily, particularly in the case of infants, liable to develop into pneumonia or some other form of complication.
3. A whispering campaign - not yet official - is busy spreading the rumor that the Americans have dropped influenza germs from the air and in some quarters it is considered that an anti-microbe campaign similar to the Korean microbe war is being kept on ice waiting for Moscow to give the word to launch it.
4. Drug Supplies: The position in this respect has improved recently. Penicillin, which in February was very weak and less effective than the dose prescribed, is reported to have improved in quality. This may be due to the fact that in the autumn of 1951 all penicillin stocks held by chemists and dispensaries, which did not bear the trade mark "supracilin" had to be returned to a Government store. It is still only issued against a doctor's prescription.

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-2-

5. Other drugs are still below strength owing to lack of raw materials. Shortages known to exist, are streptomycine, which is held in a central clinic and only issued on a permit, and the sulphanamides, which are quite unobtainable by the general public.
6. Medical Examination before Marriage: Medical examination before marriage is no longer compulsory. The reason for this is thought to be that too many young couples were found to be suffering from T.B. and therefore forbidden to marry.
7. As a result of the excessive speed-up of the tempo of work, menstruation troubles among women workers have increased alarmingly - up to 40%. A

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